

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEF 12-5 JORDAN
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Los Angeles Times reporter Richard Reston privately queried Department spokesman about reports US rebuilding Jordan Airforce and US financing Jordan purchase French fighter aircraft. Reports alleged from "high-level Jordanian sources". Spokesman told Reston US has had series of discussions with Jordan about its defense needs; however, there no agreement rebuild Jordan airforce. Spokesman also discredited report US financing French

aircraft. On basis briefing Reston found nothing new from previous statements Near East arms policy and promised so inform editors. Uncertain however what paper will do with story. If question raised during regular noon briefing, spokesman will use following guidance, which already provided to Reston.

US engages in discussions on arms sales with number of states in Near East including Jordan. However no arrangements made for the provision of US fighter aircraft to Jordan. US has no agreement to finance French aircraft for Jordan. As matter of principle USG prefers not comment on bilateral arms negotiations between other friendly governments.

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Drafted by:

NEA/P:OBELLIS dh 10/12

Telegraphic transmission and
classification approved by:

NEA/P - Daniel Brown

Cleared by:

NE-Kinzelving
-Symmes

P-McCloskey (subs) EUR/V. Gerabek

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